

**FRIENDS OF WORCESTER  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2003 - MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Kim David, Wini & Rob Hayes, Susan Caughlan, Marie Amato, Charley Muir, Jeannie Steigerwalt, Clare Billett & Barbara McMonagle

**Location:** Home of Charley Muir, 1901 Whitehall Road, Worcester, PA

**Agenda Preview**

**FWO COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**President's Report:** Montgomery County Lands Trust ([www.mclt.org](http://www.mclt.org) <<http://www.mclt.org>>) established Partners for Land Preservation in 1997. Groups around the county get together to discuss their concerns three times a year regarding land preservation and preservation of our natural resources. Many local associations are members such as Schuylkill River Greenway Assn, Montgomery County Planning Commission, Natural Lands Trust, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, Sierra Club, Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, and many more. Should FOW join? Yes! A motion was approved to join this partnership. Susan Caughlan volunteered to be our representative.

Peter Schlotterer, a long time FOW supporter and Worcester resident, was instrumental in the preservation of the Gerstenmeier 31 acre property which borders Peter Wentz Farmstead and will connect Peter Wentz Farmstead to Merrymead Farm. Great work Peter!

Thank you Wini & Rob for hosting the FOW Picnic.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance as of 9/30/03 approximately \$2,500.00

**Membership Report:** Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings and events. We are emailing the minutes and agenda to members. Email us at [info@friendsofworcester.org](mailto:info@friendsofworcester.org) <<mailto:info@friendsofworcester.org>> if you would like to be added to the list.

**Fundraising Report:** Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor for our Newsletter please contact Barb McMonagle at 215-699-8225. This would be great exposure for a Worcester business. We mail our newsletter to everyone in the township. Our annual request for membership contributions will be sent in October.

**WORCESTER TOWNSHIP MEETING REPORTS:**

**Board of Supervisors:** A conditional use hearing was held for Highmeadow Farm on Trooper Road. Developer John Westrum proposed building 25 lots on 55 acres. It will have 38% open space. Plans include maintaining the horse farm already there, water to be supplied by North Penn Water Co. and sewage by a community sewer system. Also, BOS adopted the Traffic Impact Fee Ordinance and assured money collected by this fee would be used for traffic improvements only.

**Zoning Board:** No report.

**Joint Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors:** Meet 4 times a year. The PC asked the BOS for guidance - they are being bombarded with subdivision plans. The PC is concerned that if changes are not made we will get built out. Recommendations made 1) ordinance changes 2) update the Open Space Plan which would designate growth areas and growth area boundaries.

**Planning Commission:** The PC is continuing to update the Worcester Comprehensive Plan. They have received new proposed developments for Great Valley Woods (Skippack Pike & Whitehall Rd.) and Maple Glen (Skippack Pike).

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## **CURRENT ISSUES**

**Open Space Program** - The plans for a Greenway from Peter Wentz to Evansburg State Park are moving forward. The BOS appointed a Greenway Committee. They will be presenting a draft plan on Wednesday, October 22, at 7 p.m. at the Worcester Township Community Hall. Some property owners are against the greenway going through their properties. We should look at all alternatives and be sensitive to the impact of the people that it borders.

**Open Space Referendum** - In November, the Montgomery County Commissioners will be asking if residents want to continue to spend money \$ for open space. This is a window of opportunity for Montgomery County. FOW will work to promote awareness and passage of the referendum. Municipalities must update their Open Space Plan to receive county money. An Open Space Plan Committee was formed to work with a county rep and update Worcester's ordinances, zoning, etc.

**Thompson/Scott** - No new information.

**Dubner (Fairview Auto)/Milner** - A developer proposing a shopping area in Fairview Village at Valley Forge Rd. and Germantown Pike has asked FOW for input. A committee from FOW has been formed and is meeting with him. We will keep you updated.

## **COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

**Newsletter** - Next newsletter will be in late October.

**Friends of Worcester Flea Market & Montgomery County Horse Show** FOW postponed the raffle and flea market at the spring Horse Show due to bad weather. The Farmers' Union Horse Company hosted The Montgomery County Horse Show on Sunday, September 21, 2003. It was a huge success! FOW staffed the food tent and had its annual raffle & flea market.

**Website** - Visit our website: <<http://www.friendsofworcester.org>>. Please come visit and leave your email address so we can email you the minutes. We are constantly updating the website with current information such as: meeting dates, events, newsletters & minutes.

Expand our efforts that Open Space Preservation = Lower Taxes

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

*Please Join Us By Attending Our Monthly Meetings & Events.*

October 21, 2003, Tuesday 7:30 P.M. - Home of Barb & Mike McMonagle, 2242 Berks Rd 215-699-8225

November 18, 2003, Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Home of Kim & Chris David, 1704 Berks Rd 610-584-1805

December 28, 2003, Sunday 5:00 P.M. Holiday Potluck Party at the Hayes', 3033 Fisher Rd 610-584-0371

Please RSVP by December 21st

January 13, 2004, Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Home of Jeannie & George Steigerwalt, 1028 Grange Ave 610-489-7904

February 10, 2004, Tuesday 7:30 P.M. Home of Wini & Rob Hayes, 3033 Fisher Rd 610-584-0371